

Message Text

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13

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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7080

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CZ, CY

SUBJECT: CYPRUS PRESIDENT INTERVIEW BY CZECHOSLOVAK NEWS

AGENCY AND TV

1. CZECHOSLOVAK NEWS AGENCY (CTK) ON OCT 3 RELEASED IN DAILY ENGLISH-LANGUAGE WRAP-UP AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW GIVEN OCTOBER 2 BY CYPRUS PRESIDENT GLAFKOS CLERIDES. TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, NO LOCAL MEDIA HERE USED IT ALTHOUGH AMPLE COVERAGE HAS APPEARED OF CYPRIOT JUSTICE MINISTER LEFKOS CLERIDE'S SEPT 30-OCT 4 VISIT TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

2. IN CTK INTERVIEW, CYPRIOT PRESIDENT ATTRIBUTED LOSS OF 75 PERCENT OF ISLAND'S TOTAL PRODUCTIVITY TOGETHER WITH GREEK CYPRIOT REFUGEE PROBLEM DIRECTLY TO TURKISH OCCUPATION. ATTENDANT DIFFICULTIES FOR CYPRUS NOW WERE HOUSING, FOOD, UNEMPLOYMENT AND STATE OF ECONOMY. DESCRIBING TALKS WITH DENTKASH AS DEVOTED TO HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS, CLERIDES SAID BEST WAY TO SOLVE CONSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS OF CYPRUS PROBLEM WAS DIRECT TALKS BETWEEN CYPRIOT LEADERS. NOTING (UNSPECIFIED) INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS REQUIRED DISCUSSION AT "A WIDER CONFERENCE" IN FACE
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OF INADEQUATE OLD SYSTEM OF GREEK-TURKISH-BRITISH GUARANTEES,

CLERIDES CALLED ONLY FOR "WIDER INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES"
(EQUALLY UNSPECIFIED).

3. EXPRESSING SATISFACTION THAT SOCIALIST COUNTRIES VIEWED IT AS INTERNAL AFFAIR OF CYPRIOT PEOPLE, CLERIDES DECLARED THAT CYPRUS PROBLEM SHOULD BE RESOLVED WITHOUT ANY OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE. CREDITING SOCIALIST COUNTRIES WITH HAVING CALLED FOR REMOVAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS FROM ISLAND, CLRIDES CONCLUDED INTERVIEW WITH THOUGHT THAT HAD OTHER COUNTRIES FELT SIMILARLY, THE PRESENT CYPRUS SITUATION WOULD NOT HAVE EVOLVED.

4. EMBASSY BELIEVES REASON INTERVIEW WAS IGNORED COMPLETELY BY LOCAL MEDIA LAY IN ABSENCE OF ANY SPECIFIC REFERENCE OR SUPPORT BY PRESIDENT CLERIDES TO SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CYPRUS. JUSTICE MINISTER CLERIDES THE SAME DAY HAD GIVEN NEWSMEN HERE AN INTERVIEW WHICH FOR THE MOST PART PARALLELED WHAT THE CYPRIOT PRESIDENT WAS SAYING IN NICOSIA. HOWEVER, THE MINISTER SPECIFICALLY SPOKE IN FAVOR OF THE SOVIET IDEA, GIVING THE PRESS A CHOICE BETWEEN PUBLICISING WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN VIEWED HERE AND IN THE USSR AS CONFLICTING POLICY STATEMENTS OR KEEPING SILENT. SILENCE APPARENTLY WAS THE ORDER OF THE DAY.
PERRY

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